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Approved For Release 2002/02/12 : CIA-RDP79R00890A001000040007-5

Document No. <u>28</u>
No Change in Class. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified
Class. Changed to: TS S C
Next Review Date: _____
Auth.: HR 70-3
Date: <u>2/20/80</u>

009256
By: 26 August 1958

NSC BRIEFING

BACKGROUND: US BASES IN MOROCCO

I. Four US air force bases were built, and naval air facility at Port Lyautey (used jointly by US and France since World War II) enlarged by US under December 1950 bilateral agreement with France.

A. Moroccan nationalists have consistently contended agreement was illegal because King was not consulted.

25X6

B. Bases are French property, commanded by French, fly French flag, jointly used by French and US.

1. Since Moroccan independence, US flag has been flown too.

C. Moroccan-French letters exchanged at Moroccan independence in 1956 specifically excluded American bases from international commitments to which Morocco agreed to adhere.

D. US-Moroccan negotiations to regularize status of bases began May 57. Moroccans have been difficult negotiators, have insisted on jurisdiction over American personnel, demand variety of tax payments and payment of customs on non-military goods imported for use of base personnel.

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